

Application No. : 10/789,815
Amdt. Dated : July 19, 2006
Reply To O.A. Of : April 19, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A handheld night vision device for viewing a subject in low light conditions, wherein a reduced portion of a user's face proximate an eye is illuminated, the night vision device comprising:

a housing having optics to collect light into the housing;

an eyepiece comprising a flexible eye cup including a pliable member capable of substantially form fitting an eye socket of a user thereby being capable of substantially precluding illumination of a face of the user by the night vision device;

an imager positioned to be illuminated by the light, the imager configured to generate an electrical signal representative of an intensity enhanced image of the light; and

a digital display disposed within the housing, the digital display configured to display the intensity enhanced image, wherein the digital display is viewable through the eyepiece.

2.-3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 1, wherein the digital display comprises a liquid crystal display (LCD).

5. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 1, further comprising a light source.

6. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 5, wherein the light source comprises an infrared light source.

7. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 6, wherein the light source comprises an array of infrared light emitting diodes.

8. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 5, further comprising a user controller configured to adjust the intensity of the light source.

9. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 1, further comprising an interchangeable filter disposed between the digital display and the eyepiece.

10. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 9, wherein the interchangeable filter is configured to reduce night blindness.

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11. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 9, wherein the interchangeable filter is configured to enhance the contrast of the digital display.

12. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 9, wherein the interchangeable filter is configured to reduce the amount of light projected through the eyepiece.

13. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 1, wherein the brightness of the digital display is adjustable.

14. **(Previously Presented)** A method for providing night vision to a user, the method comprising:

receiving image data through first optics into a housing;

digitally enhancing the image data to create enhanced image data adjusted for low light conditions;

electronically displaying an image corresponding to the enhanced image data on a screen disposed within the housing; and

providing a view of the screen through a flexible eyepiece attached to the housing.

15. **(Original)** The method of Claim 14, further comprising emitting light so as to illuminate an object to be observed.

16. **(Original)** The method of Claim 15, further comprising emitting infrared light.

17. **(Original)** The method of Claim 16, further comprising selectively adjusting the intensity of the infrared light.

18. **(Original)** The method of Claim 14, further comprising selectively adjusting the gain of the screen.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 14, further comprising selectively filtering the view of the screen through the flexible eyepiece.

20. **(Original)** The method of Claim 19, wherein the selective filtering is based on preserving unaided visual acuity.

21. **(Original)** The method of Claim 19, where the selective filtering is based on enhancing visual quality.

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22. **(Original)** The method of Claim 14, further comprising providing an electronic signal corresponding to the enhanced image data to an external device.

23. **(Original)** The method of Claim 14, further comprising remotely displaying the image.

24. **(Original)** The method of claim 14, wherein receiving the image through the first optics comprises:

collecting light through an objective lens; and
focusing the light onto an optical sensor.

25. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus for viewing subjects in reduced light, the apparatus comprising:

an enclosure;

sensing means disposed within the enclosure for receiving light and for generating a signal proportional to an intensity enhanced image of the light;

means for receiving the signal and for displaying the intensity enhanced image within the enclosure; and

means, including a flexible eyepiece, for viewing the intensity enhanced image within the enclosure.

26. **(Canceled)**

27. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 25, means for filtering the intensity enhanced image.

28. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 25, further comprising means for emitting light substantially imperceptible to unaided humans, wherein the emitted light is detectable by the sensing means.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 25, further comprising means for focusing the light onto the sensing means.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 25, further comprising means for formatting the signal for display.

31. **(Previously Presented)** A night vision scope comprising:

a lens assembly configured to collect light;
a flexible eyepiece;

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a sensor configured to amplify the light; and
a video display module internal to a housing of the lens assembly, flexible eyepiece and sensor, the video display module configured to display a video signal corresponding to an image of the amplified light.

32. **(Original)** The night vision scope of Claim 31, wherein the sensor is monochromatic.

33. **(Original)** The night vision scope of Claim 31, wherein the sensor is selected from the group comprising a charge coupled device (CCD) and a complementary metal oxide silicon (CMOS) device.

34. **(Original)** The night vision scope of Claim 31, wherein the sensor is a digital video camera.

35. **(Original)** The night vision scope of Claim 31, further comprising an infrared light source.

36. **(Original)** The night vision scope of Claim 31, wherein the internal video display module is a liquid crystal display.

37. **(Original)** The night vision scope of Claim 31, wherein the internal video display module is monochromatic.

38. **(Original)** The night vision scope of Claim 32, further comprising a filter configured to change the color of the internal video display module.